

Seven Towns Gain Money for Growth

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Seven towns in northern and central New Jersey counties have received shares of \$1.3 million in state Smart Future Grants, which is earmarked to promote smart growth.

The Department of Community Affairs announced yesterday East Orange received \$50,000, Elizabeth \$44,000, and Edison \$35,000 for use in finding solutions to downtown parking problems.

For efforts to develop a balanced approach to development in rural areas, Delaware Township and West Amwell received \$50,000 each and the New Jersey Institute of Technology received \$100,000.

Metuchen and Newton each received \$50,000 to help support downtown revitalization efforts.

Middlesex County and Rutgers University in New Brunswick received \$125,000 to develop recommendations for government shared services and purchasing practices, environmental improvements and community revitalization.

The Morris Land Conservancy received \$125,000 to perform an analysis of open space and development in Morris County.

"Smart growth principles are an essential component to ensuring a high quality of life in New Jersey," Gov. Jon Corzine said in a statement announcing the aid. "These grants will incorporate new development into a larger community plan to help save time, resources and precious open space."